

POT ACTIVIST URGES STUDENTS TO SPEAK UP.....5

Wife of Marc Emery thinks weed legalization will protect young people from punishment

Check us out online at
langaravoice.com
This week we feature a
Langara instructor at the
Eastside Culture Crawl,
and the effects of Ameri-
ca's new pot laws on
Vancouver

theVoice

PRODUCED BY LANGARA JOURNALISM STUDENTS

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Langara president quits to Alberta

David Ross has resigned and will move to SAIT Polytechnic school in March of 2013

By SASCHA PORTEOUS

Langara College president David Ross announced his resignation in an email Monday.

"I wish to inform the Langara community that I have submitted my resignation . . . with my last day on campus being March 1, 2013," Ross wrote.

He credits his resignation to his acceptance of the presidency at SAIT Polytechnic, in Calgary, Alberta.

"Langara has a strong sense of community and it will be that and all of you that I miss the most," he said.

Ross was appointed president and CEO of Langara College on Nov. 1, 2008, for a five-year term.

"It goes without saying that it has been an honour to be your president. I am also humbled by the outstanding people whom I have worked with and consider themselves Langarans," said Ross.

The president of the Langara Facul-

ty Association, Lynn Carter, was "staggered and stunned" to hear the news.

"I think his resignation comes at an unusual time," she said.

Carter mentioned his unfinished business, such as the complete reorganization of the administrative structure.

"It's not like things are settled right now," said Carter. "There are a number of initiatives that he has begun that haven't been completed."

Carter said she doesn't know what

will happen, but added that it will take time to get used to a new president.

"I think he did a very good job and that everyone is going to feel a sense of loss," she said.

Publishing instructor Terry Van Roon, said it would be sad to see him go.

"He was a good administrator . . . I think because of the short amount of time that he was here, he wasn't able to implement all the changes that he set out to do," said Van Roon.



DAVID ROSS
Resigned as Langara president



BRONWYN SCOTT photo

Local residents gathered to view and discuss the proposed development which will drastically affect the layout of their neighbourhood.

Oakridge a target for big changes

Proposed development at Cambie and 41st will bring 'pedestrian level' shopping to residential area

By BRONWYN SCOTT

A south Vancouver neighbourhood is pegged for major transformation if developers have their way.

The project, at 41st Avenue and Cambie Street, would introduce thousands of residential, commercial and office spaces in 13 towers with the largest standing 45 storeys tall.

The development is being marketed as a sustainable community that would include green spaces such as a Tai Chi plaza, pedestrian walkways and bicycle routes.

Hundreds of residents attended an open house on Friday to learn more about population density, strains on ex-

isting infrastructure and traffic concerns.

The development will introduce more than a thousand traffic spaces.

"I came along 41st Avenue on the bus tonight. We were behind the cars, behind the cars, behind the cars, and where are you going to put [thousands of] more cars? That's why I'm here," said resident Frank Jameson.

Others shared similar concerns.

"It's going to change the neighbourhood pretty significantly and the question I think people have, is, well, why? Who benefits from this?" said resident Michael Grant.

"I know it will benefit developers," he said. "The real issue is, do the people benefit?"

Supporters of the project, however, say traffic won't greatly affect residents because of how it is designed.

"All the access to the mall is going to be either 41st or Cambie, so people will be discouraged to use these [residen-

tial] streets to enter the mall," said transportation analyst Kati Tamashiro.

No major changes are slated for 41st or Cambie, which are already at traffic capacity, according to Tamashiro.

An underground connection to the mall including multi-tiered parking is proposed, as well as new bike routes and a pedestrian boulevard. The Canada Line will also help keep cars off the roads, she said.

"We're introducing another element of outdoor mall," said Darren Burns of Stantec Architecture Ltd., one of the firms marketing the development.

"[It will] broaden the scope of things that can happen at the pedestrian level—retail cafes, shops—those kinds of things that are outside the realm of just traditional retail," Burns said. "The expanded level of retail . . . is needed because it's underserving the community right now."

"There will be quite a large job creation as well," he said.

Oakridge the details

- will feature a Tai Chi plaza
- 13 towers in total, offering office, retail and residential space
- highest building will be 45 storeys tall
- green spaces such as pedestrian walkways and bicycle routes

LSU closing meetings

As of March 2013, board meetings will be held in-camera—closed to public

By AUDREY MCKINNON

Under the proposed new Langara Students' Union bylaws, all students, including Voice reporters and editors, will be barred from attending board meetings.

"Because every meeting will be a closed meeting, we are required to report on every meeting," said LSU queer liason Adam Giesbrecht, adding they will be publishing a newspaper to keep students informed, "pretty much within the week" of meetings.

LSU board meetings, like Vancouver school board meetings and Vancouver city council meetings, are currently open to the public.

It is a measure taken to hold publicly elected bodies accountable to the people they represent.

Langara students, including those working on the Voice, vote on who should represent them in the LSU.

One student was not so hot on the idea of the LSU not allowing students to attend board meetings should the bylaws pass.

"It's for the public so that means that the public should be able to see," said Langara business student Daniel Tkach, 21.

He said if public bodies' meetings were not held in the open "they'd have control over us and we wouldn't have any say over it."

As common practice, Canadian government board meetings do go in camera, meaning closed to the public, for special circumstances like internal employee issues or deciding on bids from outside contractors.

Any time they are not in camera, newspapers, TV and radio reporters are also allowed to attend and record

See **LITTLE INFO ON BYLAWS**, page 2



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Check out our web exclusives at <http://langaravoice.com/>

LSU needs reform: anonymous letter

In an open email sent to the Langara Students' Union and Langara staff, two students call on the union to address the numerous issues they have raised

By SAM REYNOLDS

Two anonymous individuals sent a lengthy open letter criticizing the Langara Students' Union to the union's board and all Langara faculty members last week.

Divided into five sections, the letter outlines the pair's areas of concern: communication, transparency, accountability, lack of focus on "important" issues and general dysfunction within the LSU.

Signed by a "concerned" Langara student and a former LSU board member (who will not reveal their names) the letter condemns the union for not sufficiently engaging students, focusing on issues that do not affect most students, not following proper meeting etiquette (including "often engag[ing]

in yelling matches"), not responding to concerns and inquiries from both students and The Voice, and not defining board members' roles and responsibilities, thus dissolving accountability.

The authors state that their letter isn't meant to embarrass or criticize the LSU's board, but rather serve as a call to reform.

"The LSU should exist to serve the students," the letter reads. "It should be transparent and accountable for its actions."

The duo are calling for more transparency from the LSU, particularly with regards to financial statements.

"We want to know everything, from how much each director is paid, how much each staff member is paid, and how much was spent on specific purchases. As [paying] students . . . we

have the right to know how much was spent on what and why," they say in the letter.

Because of an organizational culture that critics would see as opaque — due to large parts of meetings being in-camera (closed to the public) — the letter writers allege that the board was able to take an all expenses paid retreat to Victoria that apparently included alcohol.

For two Langara student politicians, this letter to the LSU is a fair summary of the problems many have had with the organization.

"I've been a member of the LSU board for over a year and I echo many of the concerns brought up in this letter," said Teresa (Anh) Lu, a student member of the Langara Board of Governors, via email.

"The lack of transparency on financial and executive decisions is a serious issue that should concern all Langara students."

Dean Tsatouhas, who was recently elected to the college education council, which works with the LSU, and sits on the college board.

"I agree with the concerns that the letter addresses, but cannot comment on the issues because even though I have a seat on the LSU's board, they have not fully acknowledged me onto their board," said Tsatouhas via email. "When I was first elected onto education council, there were no attempts to contact me about my seat on LSU's board."

Asked for comment, LSU media liaison Adam Giesbrecht said, "We don't respond to anonymity."

“
The LSU should exist to serve the students. It should be transparent and accountable for its actions

ANONYMOUS CRITICS



AUDREY McKINNON photo illustration

The ever-present rock outside the Langara Library has grown both a mustache and a personality, establishing itself in the Twittersverse in recent weeks. The rock's tweets are often on current events, and usually have a rock pun in them somewhere.

Cards for Christmas

Crafting session will teach staff art of D.I.Y. greetings

By TANYA HILL

From Martha Stewart to Better Homes and Gardens, do it yourself culture has gone mainstream.

Langara College employees are set to join in by making their own Christmas cards at a Christmas craft session to be held Friday Dec. 7 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in Room B114.

Giselle Lemay co-ordinates the Langara employee development centre (LEDC).

Lemay decided on the Christmas cards based on the response from a survey she sent out to employees.

The craft session will be facilitated by international student coordinator Celine Huang, with materials provided.

"Participants are encouraged to bring a donation," said Lemay, which will go towards a financial aid program that provides seasonal hampers to single parent students.

"Huang is an experienced home crafter and will be designing the cards," said Lemay.

Employees interested in participating in the card-making session can register with Lemay by emailing her at ledc@langara.bc.ca

The United Way Craft & Gift Fair takes place from Nov. 26 to 30 in the foyer of the A building.

Drinks on links nothing new — golfers

LOCAL golf courses

1 Langara
6706 Alberta St.
604-713-1816

2 Fraserview
7800 Vivian St.
604-257-6923

3 McCleery
7188 Macdonald St.
604-257-8191

Source: City of Vancouver website

Vancouver's golf courses are one step closer to selling beer right on the green

By KEVIN HAMPSON

While beer could be sold from licensed carts at Langara Golf Course by next summer, golfers say drinking on the course is already a reality.

City council approved a request from the parks board last week to allow beer carts on Langara, Fraserview and McCleery golf courses.

The request still has to be approved by the province.

Only Green councillor Adriane Carr voted against the request.

"[A public golf course] should be

treated like a public park or a public beach," she said. "Open liquor consumption is not allowed in a public space."

Allowing drinking in public golf courses may open the way to allowing it in other public spaces, Carr said.

But Langara golfers say that in practice, all three courses already allow golfers to take beer from on-site restaurants onto the course.

According to golfer Allen Lewis, all you have to do to drink on the courses currently is ask for your beer in a plastic cup and then take it with you.

A lot of people do this on the Langara golf course, said golfer Miles Bruce.

"You're allowed to do it, as long as you get it from over there," he said, pointing to the clubhouse.

Staff at the clubhouse declined to

talk to The Voice.

But not everyone opts for the clubhouse beer.

"I usually bring my own beer and keep it on the down-low," said a golfer who only wanted to be identified as Dale.

Dale said he was not enthusiastic about the possibility of beer carts, because the course might crack down on people who bring their own.

"I don't want their seven dollar beers," he added.

According to the report from city staff presented to council, golf courses represent a low risk for alcohol-related harm, because people use them for recreation and not drinking.

The Vancouver Police Department told the city it has no concerns with the beer cart proposal.

Little info on bylaws

Continued from page 1

meetings to report to the public.

The LSU bylaw vote has been open to the public since Tuesday in the foyer of the A Building.

Voting booth attendants have been unwilling to share any information with anybody representing The Voice and refused to give their identities except to say they are volunteers.

While bylaws are posted on a board in front of the booth, no take-away information about the proposed bylaws is available there.

"We're not giving them out on paper as a way to be environmentally friendly," said one volunteer.

The voting ballots themselves are printed on standard 8 1/2-x-11 paper.

Voting takes place in either the A Building or the Students' Union Building through Dec. 5. Check lsu.bc.ca for more information.

Art auction coming up

By JUDY CHERN

Those stuck for holiday gift ideas might find something special at the Art-fully Yours auction happening at Langara on Dec. 6.

A variety of one-of-a-kind ceramic pieces, jewelry, hand-knitted scarves, paintings, illustrations, greeting cards and prints -- many produced by the college's creative arts students -- will go home with the highest bidder or sold in the art market for smaller pieces.

Students will receive cash for half the money generated by each piece while the rest will go to the department in the form of art scholarships.

"Everything goes back to the students in the end," said Deborah So, organizer of the auction.

Some of the pieces were created by students and faculty who might not usually identify with being an artist.

"It turns out people have a crafty side; business students and science students have submitted pieces," said So. "For example, you might not be in arts but you like to knit."

Business student Gigi Tsui will be selling hand-knitted scarves and greeting cards.

"It's my first time putting [my crafts] up for auction, so I'm quite excited about it," she said.

Last year was the first year of the art auction, born out of high demand for items displayed at the college's art graduation show.

"We always got the question of 'How can I buy it?' but it was never for sale," said So.

The event drew a mix of 300 students, faculty and members of the public to display at the college library.

\$250,000 car sits in teachers' lot



RICHARD HODGES photo

Mystery man's McLaren sitting in Langara's employee parking lot while he lives his alter-ego instructor life.

Langara instructor rides to work in luxurious McLaren to teach math

By RICHARD HODGES

Who is the mystery man with the shiny toy car in Langara College's employee parking lot on the east side of building A?

The volcano orange McLaren MP4-12C that stands out as a beacon in the lot, you may have seen it and rightfully wondered who at Langara could afford such a car.

The Voice tracked down an exclusive semi-interview with the mysterious owner and Langara math teacher who asked to be identified only as 'E'. Why, we asked? "I want to remain mysterious," he laughed as he walked away.

The MP4-12C was launched in 2011 and is powered by a 3.8-litre V8 engine capable of reaching 592 horsepower. It can go from 0 to 200 km/h in just 8.9 seconds. A modified version of the car competes in the FIA GT3 European Championship.

E says the only reason he bought the car was the opportunity to have the first model of this McLaren in the entire province. He says he's not in love with cars and might flip through a car magazine now and again, but the opportunity to have the status symbol was too much to resist.

How did he afford such a car, especially considering it's not his passion? The Voice knows, but we're sworn to

secrecy. Let's just say we're pretty sure it's not illegal.

Ok, but how much did it cost? Again, E wouldn't give a straight answer except to say it was north of \$250,000.

We did some digging on our own and called up McLaren Toronto to get a quote. We found salesman Horst Bulua, who had a surprising revelation.

"Oh, I sold that car to him," Bulua said. "I've sold them all. We're the only dealer in the country."

Bulua, who estimates there are 50 MP4-12Cs in the entire country, says the sticker price for the model runs for \$247,500 but "you could add \$100,000 in the blink of the eye."

So why is it worth all that money?

"The chassis is carbon fibre which is unique, everything is designed and developed by McLaren you have all their expertise from their Formula One car. Lots of DNA comes from it so that's also unique," Bulua said. "It's unbelievable to drive on a day-to-day basis."

We took to the streets of campus to ask students what they think.

"It's a professor's car? How the hell did he get it? What's he working here for?" asked Yoshi Kenji.

"I think I've seen it once before," said Kelsey Farley. "I would never bring a car to school like that, why bring it here?"

"People have all sources of income," said Ingo Schoppler.

CAR FLASH

■ SSC Ultimate Aero
\$654,400

■ Pagani Zonda C12 F
\$667,321

■ Ferrari Enzo
\$670,000

Don't Forget to Submit Your Health & Dental Claims from Last Year

Important notice for students who were enrolled in the LSU Health & Dental Plan in 2011-2012

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING CLAIMS FROM LAST YEAR (for students covered in 2011-2012)

All health and/or dental claims incurred on or before August 31, 2012 (for the 2011-2012 policy year) must be **received** by the insurance company (**Sun Life**) by **November 29, 2012**.

Be sure to leave adequate time for delivery. Claims received after the deadline will not be reimbursed.

The address for Sun Life is recorded on the back of all claim forms.

Claim forms are available at **www.ihaveaplan.ca** or call the Member Services Centre at 1 866 369-8796 from 9 am to 5 pm on weekdays.



Have a smart phone with a QR code reader? Scan the box to be directed to your Plan's website.

LANGARA
STUDENTS'
UNION

ihaveaplan.ca

Photo finish for imaging grad

Recent graduate of Langara's Photo Imaging department wins award for her 'Painted Lady' portrait

By STEVEN CHUA

Three years ago, Jhoanna Tamayo swapped a career in information technology to pursue photography.

The decision has served the Philippine native well — as of this November, she has an Applied Arts magazine award to show for it, as well as a front cover feature on the publication's current issue.

The 25-year-old says the career change was rough.

Her decision to pursue the craft astonished her parents, who preferred she work with a mouse and keyboard as opposed to a camera and lens.

"I sort of hinted it a bit," says Tamayo. "Because I'm really afraid of our dad... I don't know how to tell him, I know he's going be mad."

Several months after, her father finally accepted her decision.

Tamayo's passion began in 2009 when a friend handy with a camera asked her to model in his shoots.

But posing for photos wasn't enough. Tamayo wanted to know what it was like to be the one taking them.

She pursued the interest as a hobby for about a year until she visited her sister in Vancouver, who introduced Tamayo to Langara's photo-imaging program.

She enrolled in 2010, despite her apprehensions of being in an alien land.

"I felt like a nervous wreck," laughed Tamayo. "It was my first time coming to a foreign country — most of my classmates are white, right? I was like 'I'm the only Asian student here.'"

Langara photo-imaging instructor Catharine O'Brien-Bell remembers Tamayo as a quiet student hungry to learn.

"She wasn't the sort of person that stood out from the crowd," O'Brien-Bell says. "She improved dramatically and became confident but quietly so."

Tamayo says staying flexible and open to her photo team's opinions, especially the makeup artist, was what led to the creation of the Painted Lady.

She currently works for Artona Studios, and hopes to start a photography firm with several of her friends.



JHOANNA TAMAYO and STEVEN CHUA photos
Jhoanna Tamayo (bottom) and her photo 'Painted Lady' have won a cover page on Applied Arts

Free pass inspires city residents

Library hosted program gives Vancouverites deluxe access to big attractions at no cost

By RYAN BANAGAN

On November 1, the Vancouver Inspiration Pass program became available to city residents.

The program is a free recreational and cultural pass program that gives Vancouver residents and their families the opportunity to check out some of the city's top attractions.

Participating partners include the Vancouver Art Gallery, Science World, and more.

"It's just a phenomenal way for people to experience the city who might not previously [have] had the opportunity to do so," said Stephen Barrington, the Marketing and Communications Manager at the Vancouver Public Library.

"Vancouver is a world class city with tremendous facilities. The desire was to make that as accessible as possible to as many people as possible."

The pass also grants residents access to skating rinks, pools, and pitch-and-putt golf courses

To borrow a pass, one must be a Vancouver resident age 14 or older with a valid Vancouver Public Library card.

International students with a Vancouver mailing address are also eligible.

Passes are lent out for two weeks. One pass grants admission to a family of two adults and up to four children, or up to six young people ages 14 to 18.

The pass has already generated massive demand.

"The problem with the Inspiration Pass is that it's going to take you two years to get," said Linda Demps, a librarian at the Kitsilano Public Library. "There is such a high demand right now and we only have five passes to give out."

There are only 120 passes in the VPL's system.

Barrington says that shouldn't deter people from reserving one.

"The experiences they can have are unbelievable."

“
It's just a phenomenal way for people to experience the city...”

Stephen Barrington
VPL

Studio 58's Government Inspector digs up laughs

Showtimes

■ The Government Inspector runs from Nov. 15 - Dec. 2.

■ Tuesday: \$12.25

■ Wednesday & Thursday
- Adults: \$20.75
- Seniors/Students: \$19.75

■ Friday & Saturday: \$24.75

■ Matinee's (Sat/Sun at 3:00pm): \$14.25

ticketstonight.ticketforce.com

Camp and cliché rule in this outrageous, large and fun production thanks a strong cast's riotous acting

By GILLIAN HAMES

Studio 58's production of The Government Inspector is a visually entertaining, laugh-out-loud comedy depicting a provincial Russian village thrown into chaos when a government inspector comes to review the town.

Slapstick gags and broad comedy moments delighted a full house opening night last Saturday. The audience was extremely receptive and rarely a moment went by where laughter or ap-

plause couldn't be heard.

Characters often directly addressed the audience throughout the performance, including Tim W. Carlson's character who drunkenly stumbled into the audience, berating them near the end of the first act.

Set in the early 1800s, The Government Inspector portrays corruption, bribery, ambitious officials and subsequent hijinks.

Based on Nikolai Gogol's 1836 novel, the plot centers on a case of mistaken identity, a typical comedic plot device bordering on cliché. However, the strong cast and crew kept the story fresh, with quick scene changes and snappy dialogue.

The audience always has something to look and laugh at, with compelling performances by both main and sup-

porting cast members.

"Everything is just so outrageous and large and fun," said Carlson. "[But] it's very sharp. Everything has its point. All the gags serve the story."

Stephanie Izsak, playing the role of Anna Andreyevna, stole the show.

Her confident portrayal of the mayor's over-the-top, social-climbing wife had audience members laughing even when she wasn't delivering a line.

Despite three costume changes, a hairstyle that defied gravity and make-up that wouldn't look out of place in a circus show, she looked completely at home on the stage.

"When you're working with farce this size, it's very technical," said Izsak. "You want the pace to be very crisp."

Both Joel Wirkkunen, a Studio 58

alumnus who plays the pompous mayor, and Carlson, portraying the charming con artist Ivan Alexandreyevich Khlestakov mistaken to be the illustrious inspector, had solid performances.

Besides the campy comedy and elaborate costumes, the play's strength lies in its humanity.

The townsfolk are unintelligent, yet conniving people who don't hesitate to bribe the inspector for personal gain.

Still, they are people who've had few opportunities but are still trying to better themselves the only way they know how.

"There's a little bit of us in these disgusting characters," Carlson said.

The Government Informant runs until December 15.

Matinee rates run over the weekend and students enjoy Tuesday discounts.

Santa set to deliver video game joy

The holiday season sees the launch of the year's hottest and most anticipated blockbusters

By MICHAEL LETENDRE

Christmas is just over a month away, and gamers will need to check their lists twice to make sure they've asked for this season's hottest games.

The months leading up to Christmas are full of major releases for video games, and this year has been no exception with multiple highly anticipated titles being released.

Victor Lucas, executive producer and host of EP Daily and Reviews on the Run, Citytv shows that review videogames, entertainment and technology, weighed in on the must-have games of the season.

"I think the hottest games personally are Dishonored and Assassin's Creed 3," he said.

A game that may have flown under the radar for some when it was released in October, Dishonored follows a royal bodyguard who is framed for murder and becomes an assassin on a quest for revenge.

Lucas said it was the breakout hit of the year.

"This is a brand new game that is just an utter treat. It grabs hold of you within its first mission and you are captivated all the way through," he said.

For Halo 4, the first release of a new trilogy planned for the series, Lucas said: "It's a beautiful game. It retains and reclaims a lot of the emotional interest that we had with Halo when we all jumped into it ten years ago. It's a great homage to a terrific franchise."

As for November's biggest release, Call of Duty: Black Ops 2, which took in more than \$500 million on its release day, Lucas said: "Black Ops 2 is more of the Call of Duty madness. It's not exactly revolutionary, but there is some really fun, cool content on display. Its mindless, but super fun."

Lucas said he is also excited about Nintendo's Wii U, released Nov. 18 and already sold out nearly everywhere nationwide.

"What I've played so far has been impressive and unique," he said.

History and political science student Dwight Kematch is looking forward to playing the new Call of Duty, but said he doesn't take gaming too seriously.

"For me, it's just something for entertainment," he said.

For science student David Zhen, games are more than just recreation.

"For me, games are an escape," he said.

"If the day's going bad, I just pop a game in and forget about the bad for a few hours."



MICHAEL LETENDRE photo

Nintendo Wii U, with its flagship launch title Super Mario Bros. U

Students urged to be heard

Pot activist says young adults should make their views known

By KATJA DE BOCK

With the momentum on their side, B.C. pot activists are urging students to get their voice heard.

On Nov. 6, Washington and Colorado voted to legalize the recreational use of marijuana. Other states have similar bills on the way.

The Canadian government has since implemented harder sentences on growers.

That does not deter B.C. activists like Jodie Emery, wife of Marc Emery, the B.C. pot activist currently jailed in Mississippi for selling marijuana seeds to the U.S. "We keep gaining allies, the prohibition keeps losing theirs," she said.

The 27-year old has become somewhat of a poster child for the marijuana movement in B.C. and is hosting her own Internet show called Pot TV.

Cathy Huth, instructor at Langara's criminal justice program, found that about half of her students would support decriminalization of marijuana, and they say it might reduce organized crime. The other half is concerned. "Would this lead into more people using drugs? . . . Would we allow marijuana, are we then going to allow other types of drugs? Would it encourage people using the drug legally and then engage in what could be harmful behaviour like driving under the influence?" are some of the students' arguments, she said.

Jodie Emery argues that legalizing pot would protect young people from punishment. "Right now, if they get arrested, they get a criminal record and it affects them forever," she said.

Emery, who is also speaking on behalf of the Sensible BC campaign — which aims to organize a provincial referendum about pot legalization — wants students to get involved.

"Whether you are in favour or you're opposed to this proposal, this is an opportunity for you to have a voice, to learn about the issue and to take a stand," she said.



KATJA DE BOCK photo

Jodie Emery, 27, owner of Cannabis Culture, New Amsterdam cafe, and host of the Pot TV show.

Langara Student Views

Question- What are your thoughts on legalizing marijuana in British Columbia?

INTERVIEWS AND PHOTOS BY KATJA DE BOCK



MIKE WILSON
Geography

"The biggest argument is that it is probably less damaging than a lot of things that are legal, like pharmaceutical drugs. Having it legal is not going to change the extent that people are using it."



CONNOR ROBINSON
Environmental Science

"I don't see a point in prohibition. Marijuana should be legalized. There is no difference with alcohol. If it would be more accessible, maybe crime rates would go down."



REBEKAH MacTAVISH
Early Assistance

"It's a slippery slope. If it becomes legal, it would be used more for partying, less for medicinal use, and it might increase overall drug use. It's going to bump up drug use."

Local mountains ready this weekend

Snow covered hills means its time to strap on the skis, snowshoes and snowboards for another season

By JUDY CHERN

It's the time of the year again where many local mountains are open for skiing, snowboarding, and more. Staff at Mount Seymour Resorts want to emphasize its beginner-friendly atmosphere and facilities.

A new chairlift will operate quicker than the previous one, as well as give beginners an easier time. "Improved contouring on the load-on and load-off areas will make Mystery Peak much more accessible to beginner skiers and boarders," said Mount Seymour Resorts president Eddie Wood in a press release.

Lift tickets sell for \$39 from 4 p.m.-10 p.m. Morning and afternoon passes cost \$51.

For the often-forgotten snowshoeing demographic, the mountain is Snowshoe Magazine's top choice as a snowshoe-friendly ski resort.

Grouse Mountain is going green with a new terrain park made out of recyclable materials. It offers a variety of jumps and features for those who like a taste of the extreme, according to Sarah Lusk, public relations manager for Grouse.

The mountain also has a Snowshoe Grind trail, the winter counterpart of the popular Grouse Grind hike. Other ways to enjoy what winter has to offer in our backyard include ice-skating, ziplining, snow-limo tours and sleigh rides at Grouse.

Ski and ride passes cost \$58 and the mountain is open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day.

Cypress Mountain's new snowmaking systems will ensure that the popular Olympic Terrain is entirely covered with powder.

The mountain is also host to a new beginner chair designed to make learning easier.

An all-day pass retails for \$60 and the alpine area is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

To prepare for the venture into our winter wonderland, snow gear this year is more technologically advanced — as well as more expensive. The Smith IOX Goggle emphasizes peripheral visions and fog free performance, stated press material.

The Burton Genesis EST Binding flexes with riders' legs for more powerful ollies and reduces vibration, according to Comor Sports and Pacific Boarder marketing co-ordinator Jenny Wong.

Students who find these prices hefty might be able to grab a deal this weekend as Pacific Boarder has 10 to 60 per cent off everything in store.



photo courtesy of GROUSE MOUNTAIN

Snow on the mountains means the ski season is here. This weekend is the opening for our three local hills.

Wong said there has been some change in rider demographic.

"Winter sports are still participated in predominately by males 18 to 35," she said. "However we see more and more females everyday looking to get into snowboarding."



Let's legalize pot and take advantage of the harvest

Marijuana. Of course I have blazed (smoked). Actually, a lot, but I was younger then. I find it just makes me paranoid now, so I stopped. Anyway . . .

Washington and Colorado just voted to legalize marijuana this month. It comes as no surprise that a large majority of British Columbians want to follow suit. According to an Angus Reid Poll: Stop the Violence, 75 per cent of British Columbians – and myself – support the taxation and regulation of marijuana.

B.C. could gain a lot, financially, according to a study: Marijuana Growth in B.C., conducted for the Fraser Institute by economist Stephen T. Easton.

Easton calculates that British Columbia produces roughly 400,000 kilograms of weed per year, which would put the value of our yearly crop at a wholesale level of two billion dollars. But let's say the average street price for a gram was 10 dollars, which would double our industry to four billion dollars.

That's a nice chunk of change. And what about all the money that is wasted on the prohibition of marijuana?

According to the Auditor General's report from 2001, \$450 million was spent between 1999 and 2000 on drug control, enforcement and education, 70 per cent of which were cannabis-related charges.

Why are we wasting all this money on prohibition? I don't know but it's keeping the cops busy for now at least.

If we are talking about money, then we need to talk about the health affects of legalization.

Easton mentioned in his study that legalization could increase the amount of users, which could lead to increased health risks down the road.

But marijuana consumption is already widespread, so I would argue that there are already health risks impending.

Vancouver once had the reputation as the marijuana capital of North America. Regardless of whether it's legalized or not, people are going to smoke and tok. So let's take advantage of the industry, and pass the joint while we're at it.



OPINION
SASCHA PORTEOUS

Cash fuels political show

The American presidential election is a spectacle and one of the greatest political shows on earth. It seduces and entertains people all over the world primarily because of the vast wealth that fuels it.

On Tuesday, Nov. 6th, Americans re-elected President Barack Obama to a second term. While the total number of U.S. viewers dropped from 71.5 million viewers in 2008 to about 66.8 million this year, the election itself still drew much of the world's attention.

So why such interest?

According to the Center for Responsive Politics, a total of \$6 billion was spent in the 2012 contests, making this year's elections the most expensive in U.S. history.

To put \$6 billion into perspective, consider that close to \$340 million was spent making the costliest Hollywood movie to date, Pirates of the Caribbean, and you get some idea of how this is going to play out.

With the U.S. Supreme Court

ruling in 2010 allowing unlimited donations from corporations, the trend is towards more money in political campaigns, not less.

A huge part goes, of course, towards advertising, especially TV ads warning voters about the evils of the opposition candidate. Some argue that since the Democratic Party actually drew in fewer donations than the Republicans, the results disprove the theory that money controls political outcomes.

But that doesn't show the big picture. Obama still attracted record sums and candidates now spend shocking amounts of time simply on fundraising. Pimps need prostitutes after all.

The absurd wealth that dominates



OPINION
SIMONE PFEIFFER

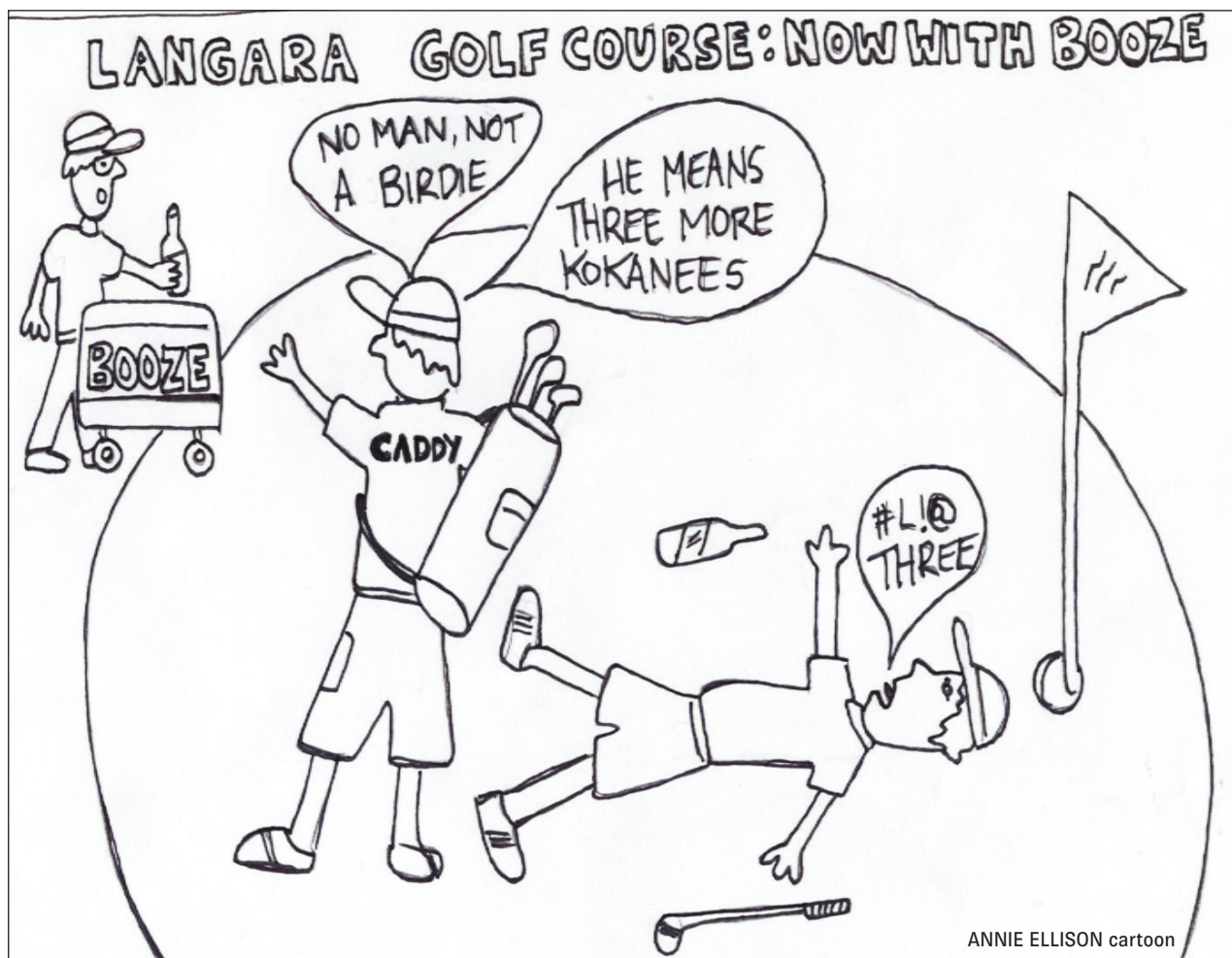
the modern campaign in the U.S. was highlighted by Las Vegas casino billionaire Sheldon Adelson's donation - \$70 million to defeat Obama.

About half of Adelson's donation can be traced directly to supposedly independent groups, the super PACs, which in reality are anything but. However the rest was channelled through smaller groups that aren't required by law to disclose the names of their donors.

This means it will be more difficult to track sources of campaign financing, another worrisome trend.

It might be at least slightly amusing, if the candidates showed a trace of irony.

When Mitt Romney, whose own net worth is about \$250 million, waved to the crowd as he prepared to give his concession speech, he was standing onstage backed by a giant screen that read: Believe in America. Seriously. You just can't make this shit up.



ANNIE ELLISON cartoon

Violent video games are obscene

Finish him," the referee demanded. I obliged, plunging my fist through my opponent's chest and ripping out his heart.

It was only a video game, but my grandmother was morally outraged. She called it "obscene." To my adolescent ears, the word seemed archaic.

But I've since realized that she was right: violent video games should not be socially accepted in a civilized culture.

Unfortunately, video games are as popular as ever. According to the Pew Research Center, 97 per cent of teenagers age 12 to 17 play them. Half say violent games are among their favourites.

Grand Theft Auto, one of the top-selling franchises, offers such thrills as beating a woman until she dies in a pool of blood.

Graphically violent films are bad

enough. They invite us to take pleasure in the spectacle of people dying horrible deaths. Video games go even further, letting the player carry out the simulated act of killing people.

Some people say violent games are useful because they provide an outlet for aggression, but most experts disagree.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association and the National Institute of Mental Health have all concluded, after reviewing thousands of studies, that playing violent video games desensitizes us to real life violence and increases aggressive and antisocial behaviour.

In a study published in the Biological Psychology journal, researchers from the University of Bonn monitored the brain activity of subjects who played an average of 15

hours a week of graphically violent games. The subjects' reactions indicated less emotional response to pictures of real accident victims than a control group who had never played such games.

Violent video games demean those who play them. On the one hand, they appeal to the most primitive and destructive aspect of human nature:

our innate aggression. On the other hand, they dull our capacity to empathize with human suffering.

If society places a high value on human life, we should be concerned that these games have become part of our mainstream culture.



OPINION
KEVIN HAMPSON

We want to hear from you

Did we get a fact wrong?

Tell us.

Got a different point of view?

Write to us.

Problems with something we've said?

Let us know.

Journalism instructor
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theVoice

The Voice is published by Langara College's journalism department.

Editorial opinions are those of the staff and are independent of views of the student government and administration.

We welcome letters to the editor. All letters must be signed. They may be edited for brevity. Names may be withheld in special cases, but your letter must include your name and phone number.

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Sexy politics attract the world

A look at why #Election2012 was so popular, and if a similar event is possible in Canada

Canada lacks a political superstar

A socialist and a conservative walk into a bar ... and discuss the bizarre popularity of American politics

By ANNIE ELLISON

On the night of Nov. 6, the Metropole Community Pub in Gastown was packed with rowdy student patrons glued to a dozen TV monitors — and it had nothing to do with ice or pucks.

At the U.S. election night social hosted by The Universities' Model Parliament Society of British Columbia, students of all political creeds (including those who don't vote in Canada) caught the buzz and tuned in to American election coverage.

"It's the most powerful country in the world," said Langara International Socialists organizer Bradley Hughes. "Of course people are going to watch."

Hughes says perhaps more Canadians would be politically engaged if we, like the Americans, elected our own head of state instead of paying taxes to a monarch.

"Making Canadian politics sexier wouldn't hurt, but it's about making it easier for people to understand the issues and get involved," said Hughes.

In practice, Obama and Romney have the same policies although they are made out to be polar opposites, said Hughes. "The Occupy movement is providing a lot of the relief for Hurricane Sandy. That would have happened no matter who won."

Meanwhile, the differences between the parties in Canada are subtler and leaders tiptoe around the real issues, according to Hughes.

"[NDP leader] Thomas Mulcair says in the west, pipelines are bad, but in the east they're OK. That's not clear," said Hughes.

Jeffrey Griese, a national constitution committee member for the Conservative Party of Canada says our gaze drifts south because Canadian politics cannot compete with the star power involved in the U.S. presidential race.

"Obama is a whole new level of spectacle," said Griese.

In contrast, the Westminster voting system [used in Canadian elections] is much slower, more confusing and less exciting, he said.

"Left-wing parties don't go by seniority or paying dues, they go by star power, momentum and passion. It's served them well," said Griese, alluding to Obama, JFK and the growing electricity of federal Liberal Party leadership candidate Justin Trudeau.

According to Griese, if the U.S. economy doesn't bounce back soon, the impending financial crisis will inevitably impact Canada, another reason we should be watching our neighbours closely.

Canada will get to see its own political fireworks in 2015 if people become fed up with the Harper government and Trudeau manages to capture the momentum of his father's legacy, said Griese.

But in a rare case of agreement between socialist and conservative, Hughes and Griese both doubt the Americans will be watching.



MICHELLE GAMAGE photo

What would it take for Canadian politicians to generate more interest in their local elections?

Locals hot for US pols

Election conflict and media hype draws eyes away from Canadian politics and to the south

By BRANDON KOSTINUK

When it come to politics, the Americans are simply more interesting.

The most recent U.S. election spurred fervent debate and discussion throughout the Lower Mainland and seemed more relevant than the 2011 Canadian federal election.

"The American election had a number of issues Canadians could identify with such as health care and the economy," said Stephen Phillips, political science instructor at Langara College.

But Phillips also said that having likable figures is just as important to garnering attention as the issues.

Canadians admired President Obama and his balanced approach to foreign policy, which aligned more with a Canadian tact, said Phillips.

Medical student Ali Pervaiz said that Canadian politicians, compared to their American counterparts, are less amusing.

"Harper is damn boring," said Pervaiz. "There's nothing interesting about the man ... but Obama is charismatic, he's smooth."

Pervaiz, however, offered no comment on Republican candidate Mitt

Romney, who, according to second-year international relations student Chris Bayko, was important to the popularity of this year's presidential election.

It was a good show because the two individuals involved — Obama and Romney — were polarizing figures, said Bayko, and the media intensified this through extensive coverage of their respective differences.

Furthermore, media predicting a close race well throughout the campaign made for an especially competitive and thus exciting climax (i.e. election day), said Bayko.

In other words, the pre-election hype so common to the U.S. presidential election fosters attention from media and the public. But the hype wouldn't be possible if either figure isn't perceived to have a legitimate chance to win in the first place, said Bayko.

Pervaiz noted American prominence as reason for Canadian attention to U.S. politics.

"The United States is a superpower so there's interest in whatever they do."

Canada, like other countries, said Pervaiz, tuned into the election because the U.S. is a country whose political decisions have global ramifications, not excluding the Great White North.

“Harper is damn boring. There’s nothing interesting about the man ... but Obama is charismatic, he’s smooth.”

ALI PERVAIZ,
Langara Medical Student

Politicos bash U.S. spending

Local elected officials view the billions spent in the American election as wasteful and avoidable

By MICHAEL LETENDRE

The latest race for the White house left a funny taste in the mouths of some local politicians.

The American election is estimated to have cost over US\$6 billion, the most expensive in U.S. history and a much vaster sum than the cost of Canada's 2011 general election, an estimated \$291 million. The amount of media coverage of the American election also dwarfed any election ever seen in Canada.

Vancouver City Councilor and member of the Green Party of B.C., Adriane Carr, said that campaign ads, estimated by a Barclays report to have cost US\$2.6 billion, are a major source of concern in the American election.

"The cost of campaigns has gone up so astronomically because political parties are buying huge numbers of highly expensive TV ads. In a way it leads you to conclude that you can actually buy an election," she said.

Carr said she thinks the constant polling, a survey of public opinion, that was seen in the U.S. election is a problem and that her own party has suggested there be a ban on polling for the duration of an election.

"They can really sway people and influence people so that they think about voting based on what they think other people are going to do at the ballot box, rather than come to their own conclusions," she said.

Carr said she hopes Canada never aspires for the fever pitch seen in American politics because she doesn't want voters to become burnt out on the election process.

"What I got out of this last election was voter fatigue. The message that seemed to be coming through from citizens was 'enough already'," she said.

"I'd like to see less, not more and the states definitely went the route of more."

NDP representative for the Vancouver-Fraserview district, Gabriel Yiu said he thinks "Canada should learn through America's shortcomings."

Yiu said that money, specifically campaign donations from unions and corporations, is becoming too big of a driving force behind the campaigns.

"That's no longer a real democratic, one person one vote system. It's more about a money-generating, money-influencing system," he said.

Yiu said that the BC NDP recognizes this problem and is advocating for a tougher donation policy.

"Our policy would be totally banning labour union and corporate donations."



GABRIEL YIU
NDP Vancouver-Fraserview rep.



Annie Ellison photos

Clockwise from top left- Brody Greig lays it up, Jesse Jeffers grabs the board, team huddle.

Langara goes 1 and 1

After tough loss on Friday, women bounce back for the win on last Saturday night

BY JENNIFER THUNCHER

In basketball, as in life, passion isn't always enough to win.

After a heartbreaking 65-52 loss Friday night in Surrey, the Langara Falcons women's basketball team got a much needed win Saturday in Abbotsford against the Columbia Bible College Bearcats.

Having lost to the Kwantlen Eagles in an exhibition game earlier in the season, the Falcons started Friday's game with something to prove. The intensity of players like forward Charlotte Lau, who scored 10 points, initially paid off giving the Falcons a 20-9 first-quarter lead.

Late in the second quarter the Eagles took control, constantly putting the Falcons on the defensive. By the end of the first half the score was 29-28 for the Eagles. Guard Jennifer Carpio pushed hard and scored 10 points, but it wasn't enough. The Eagles won 65-52.

Despite the loss, Falcon's coach Mike

Evans was pragmatic.

"We didn't guard their best players as we should have ... they played well so we have to give it to them," said Evans.

A surprise guest raised the team's spirit in spite of the loss. Former Falcon star player and cancer survivor Carling Muir came out to support her old team, bringing smiles to both coaches and players.

The Falcons don't have any players over six-feet tall while the Eagles, and most other league teams, have at least four women over that height. That said, Muir blamed the loss on small mental errors. "We missed some easy shots. We can beat them," said Muir.

In Saturday's game against the Bearcats, Langara again came out strong. Forward Rhea Silvestri lead the team with 11 points en route to a 33-21 first half score.

In the second half the Falcons were out scored by the Bearcats, but still hung on for a 60-54 win.

Silvestri was glad the team was able to wind up ahead. "It felt good to get that win. We still have lots of work to do, but we needed that," said Silvestri.

The Falcons next play Douglas College Friday night.



Falcons stay undefeated

Men play strong for back to back wins this past weekend

BY ANNIE ELLISON

Friday night, the Falcons strolled into what they thought would be an easy victory against the Kwantlen Polytechnic University Eagles and came out with a narrow six point win.

Ten lead changes and dozens of fouls kept the packed Kwantlen gym on its feet.

Langara head coach Paul (Ebe) Eberhardt spent much of the game pacing the court yelling at either his players or the referees.

"I'm not very happy from a coaching perspective," said Ebe despite the win.

The Falcons gave up a 35-22 lead in the second quarter, sitting back while

Kwantlen went on a 10-0 run to lead the second half 48-47.

Because of early foul trouble, Ebe had to rely on his bench in the third quarter —Langara made a whopping 31 personal fouls. Substitutes Jeff Chu and Jesse Jeffers came up with some big rebounds to shut the Eagles down.

Centre Devin McMurtry played a scrappy game and held the Falcons' defense together.

"We came into it overconfident but we got a gritty victory," he said.

Langara's players struggled to adjust to a messier game, but the score ultimately came down to free throws.

The Falcons hit a steady 24 of 28 team free throws while Kwantlen sank only 19 of 33.

"I give credit to Kwantlen," said Eberhardt. "That was a good test for us."

The buzzer sounded with McMurtry hanging off the rim to a 100-94 Langara victory.

On Saturday night, Langara tightened up and showcased their fast-break game to win 111-87 against the Columbia Bible College Bearcats in Abbotsford.

Once again the Falcons opened with a double-digit lead but were grasping a dicey 49-45 advantage at halftime. But Langara let it rip in the third quarter, putting up 35 points to blast ahead 84-64.

Point guard Brody Greig had a triple-double with 20 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists.



Jennifer Thuncher photo

Top- Toni Li dribbles up the court, Bottom- Jesseca Eng tries to get past a Kwantlen defender.



Jules Knox photo

Langara student Dave Robinson.

Fight of the night

■ "Night of Champions" is tonight

■ Dave Robinson will defend his super-middleweight title

■ Held at the Italian Cultural Centre on 3075 Slocan Street

■ Doors at 5:30 p.m.
Dinner at 6:00 p.m.
Fights at 8:00 p.m.

"Dangerous" Dave ready to defend his title

Langara's Dave Robinson prepares for fight of his life

BY JULES KNOX

When B.C.'s super-middleweight boxing champion wakes up at four in the morning to go for a run, he owes his militant training habits to his former coach.

Langara student Dave Robinson still doesn't know who he'll be fighting when he defends his title on Nov. 22, but he isn't worried.

He sticks to a training routine that was drilled into him almost a decade ago by formidable coach Josh Canty in Windsor, Ont.

Canty used to call Robinson every morning before the break of dawn to

make sure he was up for a run.

"But even though he gives you that call, it's still your choice get up and actually go for that run," Robinson said.

"When you win, you're obliged to everybody else, but when you lose, you're by yourself," he said.

These days, Canty no longer makes those early-morning wake-up calls. But Robinson still goes for that run.

The boxer reflects fondly on the time he spent training in Windsor with Canty. "Those were the best summers of my life," he said.

Robinson's boxing club arranged for a group of young fighters to participate in Kansas City's Ringside World Championships in 2002 and 2003.

The coaches did all the cooking and chauffeured players around town.

"We felt like professional boxers,"

Robinson said. "It's what inspired the way I coach now."

Ten years later and Robinson is now the chef for his young protégés during road trips.

As Robinson trains for his upcoming fight, he says he waits until he's in the ring facing his challenger to plan a strategy.

"I look for tendencies or patterns in an opponent and then try to manipulate them," he said.

Robinson said that anybody on any given day can lose to a lesser fighter or beat a greater fighter.

"Given that you've both done the work that you need to do to be there, sometimes it's just whose day it is."

The title fight is tonight at the Italian Cultural Centre. Tickets are \$100 and include dinner, beer and wine.